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SITUATION: HAK TRIP
SUBJECT CATEGORY: TOHAK

MESSAGE / ANNOTATION:

MESSAGE:

IMMEDIATE

O 210300Z OCT 73

FM THE SITUATION ROOM TOHAK43

TO PETER RODMAN FOR DR KISSINGER

SECRET SENSITIVE WH32574 TOHAK43

TO: LARRY EAGLEBURGER FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER

FROM: BRENT SCUNCROFT

THE FOLLOWING IS A MEMO PROVIDED BY DIRECTOR COLBY ON REACTIONS
OF ARAB DIPLOMATS TO THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH THE FOUR FOREIGN
MINISTERS.

BEGIN TEXT:

SUBJECT: REACTIONS OF ARAB DIPLOMATS TO THE MEETING OF ARAB
FOREIGN MINISTERS WITH PRESIDENT NIXON

1. THIS MEMORANDUM TRANSMITS INFORMATION

25X1

CONCERNING CERTAIN IMPRESSIONS DRAWN BY THE FOUR
ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS FROM THEIR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON
AND YOURSELF ON 17 OCTOBER, AS WELL AS THE REACTIONS OF ARAB DIPLOMATS
AT THE UNITED NATIONS TO SUBSEQUENT, RELATED DEVELOPMENTS FLOWING
FROM THIS MEETING.

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25X12. THE PRINCIPAL IMPRESSIONS REFLECTED BY THE FOUR ARAB FOREIGN
MINISTERS AFTER THEIR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON AND YOURSELF
CAN BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:(A) THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE ITS CURRENT INTENSIFIED
MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL UNTIL THE MILITARY BALANCE IS RESTORED IN
THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT NOT INDEFINITELY.(B) PRESIDENT NIXON IS DETERMINED TO BRING ABOUT A CESSATION OF
HOSTILITIES AND TO MOVE FOR A SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM.
THE FOREIGN MINISTERS FELT THIS TO BE A "GENUINE SENTIMENT" ON
THE PRESIDENT'S PART.(C) PRESIDENT NIXON SHOULD BE GIVEN SOME TIME TO ACT AND BACK UP
HIS WORDS WITH ACTIONS, THERE WERE SOME DIFFERENCES AMONG THE FOREIGN
MINISTERS, HOWEVER, AS TO HOW MUCH TIME WOULD BE TOLERABLE.

(D) THE PROGRESS OF THE WAR ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE

***** WHSR COMMENTS *****

SCUNCROFT, HOWE, MCFARLANE, SEC

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DTG:210300

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IS PROBABLY THE FACTOR WHICH WILL CHIEFLY DETERMINE THE DEGREE OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT AND THE CONDITIONS FOR PEACE TO BE PRESENTED BY BOTH PARTIES.

(E) THE FOREIGN MINISTERS NOTED PARTICULARLY PRESIDENT NIXON'S POINT, IN REFERENCE TO U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242, THAT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL SHOULD NOT BE FROM ALL TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967, BUT RATHER TO THE LINES WHICH WOULD GIVE ISRAEL SECURE BOUNDARIES.

(F) IT WAS FIRMLY BELIEVED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT HOSTILE TO THE ARAB CAUSE. THEY FELT THAT PRESIDENT NIXON'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE ARAB POSITION WAS CLEAR, BUT THAT HOW HE WILL MOVE WILL DEPEND PRIMARILY ON THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES.

3. FOLLOWING THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS, SEVERAL RELATED DEVELOPMENTS EVOKED CRITICAL REACTIONS FROM ARAB DIPLOMATS AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK AND BROKE THE HARMONY WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY PREVAILED AMONG THESE DIPLOMATS SINCE THE ERUPTION OF HOSTILITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

(A) SAUDI ARABIAN FOREIGN MINISTER 'UMAR SAQQAF'S PRAISE OF PRESIDENT NIXON IN SAQQAF'S PUBLIC REMARKS AFTER THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON WERE SHARPLY ATTACKED BY ARAB DIPLOMATS GENERALLY AT THE UNITED NATIONS AS BEING SHORT-SIGHTED AND NOT IN THE INTERESTS OF THE ARAB STATES. IT WAS CONSIDERED INAPPROPRIATE FOR AN ARAB SPOKESMAN TO COMPLIMENT THE AMERICAN CHIEF OF STATE WHILE THE UNITED STATES WAS CONTINUING ITS INTENSIFIED RESUPPLY TO ISRAEL.

(B) PRESIDENT NIXON'S PUBLIC REMARKS WERE ALSO CRITICIZED BY ARAB DIPLOMATS AT THE UNITED NATIONS FOR NOT BEING ADDRESSED TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM.

(C) AFTER THE FOUR ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS REFUSED TO ATTEND A MEETING ON 17 OCTOBER OF APPROXIMATELY SIXTY U.N. AMBASSADORS AND FOREIGN MINISTERS, THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF KUWAIT MET ON 18 OCTOBER WITH THE ARAB U.N. AMBASSADORS TO BRIEF THEM ON THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON. DISSATISFACTION WITH THIS BRIEFING WAS PREVALENT AMONG THE ARAB AMBASSADORS, WHO CLAIMED THAT IT WAS A DISTORTED AND INCOMPLETE BRIEFING IN WHICH THEY HAD BEEN GIVEN ONLY WHAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN AGREED UPON BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF ALGERIA, KUWAIT, MOROCCO, SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT, AND SYRIA.

W. E. COLBY
 DIRECTOR

END TEXT
 WARM REGARDS
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